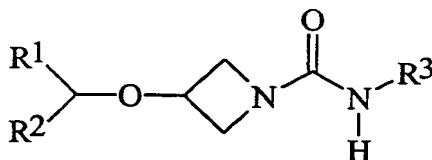


CLAIMS

1. Use of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

R¹ is aryl;

R² is H, alkyl or aryl; and

R³ is hydrogen or alkyl;

10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for neuroprotection in a subject or for the treatment of cerebral ischaemia, central nervous system injury or eye diseases.

2. A use according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl or naphthyl.

3. A use according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R¹ has 1, 2 or 3 substituent groups.

4. A use according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein R¹ is chlorophenyl, fluorophenyl, (trifluoromethyl)phenyl, 3, 4-dichlorophenyl or 3, 4-difluorophenyl.

5. A use according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein R² is hydrogen or methyl.

6. A use according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R³ is alkyl.

7. A use according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R³ is alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

8. A use according to any preceding claim wherein R³ is allyl or propargyl.

9. A use according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R^3 is unsubstituted saturated cyclic or acyclic hydrocarbyl.

5 10. A use according to claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from:

3-(4-chlorobenzyloxy)-N-(2-propenyl) azetidine-1-carboxamide,

3-(3,4-dichlorobenzyloxy)-N-(2-propenyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide,

3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyloxy)-N-(2-propenyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide,

3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyloxy)-N-(2-propenyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide,

10 3-(4-fluorobenzyloxy)-N-(2-propenyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide,

3-(bis(4-chlorophenyl)methoxy)-N-(2-propenyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide,

(R)-3-(bis(4-chlorophenyl)methoxy)-N-(2-hydroxypropyl)azetidine-1-carboxamide,

3-((3-chlorophenyl) methoxy)-azetidine-1-carboxamide, and

3-(1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethyloxy)-azetidine-1-carboxamide.

15

11. A use according to any preceding claim wherein said medicament comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as active ingredient an effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

20 12. A use according to claim 11 wherein said carrier comprises a cyclodextrin or an ether derivative thereof.

13. A use according to any preceding claim wherein the medicament further comprises a buffer system, an isotonicizing agent and water.

25

14. Use according to any of preceding claim wherein the compound of formula (I) is in combination with one or more additional drugs useful in neuroprotection or in the treatment of cerebral ischaemia, central nervous system injury or eye diseases, the components being in the same formulation or in separate formulations for administration
30 simultaneously or sequentially.

15. A method of neuroprotection comprising administration to a subject in need of such treatment an effective dose of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.
- 5 16. A method of treatment of cerebral ischaemia, central nervous system injury or eye diseases comprising administration to a subject in need of such treatment an effective dose of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.
- 10 17. A method according to claim 15 or 16 wherein the compound of formula (I) is administered in the form as set out in any of claims 11, 12, 13 or 14.